

OCA FILE SSCI  
RECPT # \_\_\_\_\_

1 April 1987  
OCA 87-1284

NOTE FOR: Acting Director  
FROM: Dave Gries *DP*  
SUBJECT: Confirmation Hearing

Attached are the FBI's proposed answers to the three key SSCI questions. I have also included their answer to the one question that concerns Iran.

I am farming these out as appropriate and intend to respond orally to the FBI by close of business today. Comments welcome.

I expect to receive this afternoon a draft of Judge Webster's opening statement, together with a copy of the briefing book that the FBI has prepared. Apparently Thursday's "murder board" will consist mostly of a review of the briefing book, with CIA officers on hand to provide additional answers as needed.

Attachment

Distribution:

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PART B - QUALIFICATIONS AND REFERENCES

13. QUALIFICATIONS (DESCRIBE WHY YOU BELIEVE YOU ARE QUALIFIED TO SERVE IN THE POSITION FOR WHICH YOU HAVE BEEN NOMINATED):

I have completed nine years as Director of the FBI.

In addition to administering an organization similar in many respects to the CIA, I have served as Chairman of the working Group on Counterintelligence (IG-CI) and as a member of the Special Interagency Group on Intelligence (SIG-I).

My responsibilities have placed me in contact with most of the operational counterparts of the CIA in the free world.

- #43. Describe in your own words the concept of Congressional Oversight of U.S. Intelligence activities. In particular, characterize what you believe to be the obligations of the Director of Central Intelligence, the Deputy Director of Central Intelligence, and the intelligence committees of the Congress respectively in this process.

**National security is a shared responsibility.** In order for the Congress to be certain that the intelligence activities being carried out by the Administration are lawful, proper and consistent with national security needs, each body has constituted a Select Committee on Intelligence. It is the responsibility of the Director of Central Intelligence, or in his absence, the Deputy Director, to keep the intelligence committees informed of important information and activities developed within the intelligence community on a timely basis. Because such information and activities are usually classified for security purposes and must not be publicly or widely disseminated, the committees act as surrogates for the Congress and the American people. They react to specific issues, at the same time faithfully preserving the secrets entrusted to them. The key word in the relationship is trust - and the DCI plays an important role in developing and preserving this indispensable ingredient between the intelligence communities and the intelligence committees in carrying out their respective responsibilities for the National Security.

## RESPONSE TO QUESTION #44

As the President's primary intelligence advisor, the DCI provides objective and relevant intelligence to our Government's policy makers. Because this intelligence serves as the basis for significant foreign policy and national security decisions, the integrity of the intelligence collection and analysis must be absolute. To ensure that the President receives the intelligence necessary to carry out policy objectives, the DCI must encourage the entire intelligence community to exchange all pertinent information. The DCI must promote a free discussion of ideas and foster analytical competition within the intelligence community. The DCI must work to see that the intelligence needs of the respective departments of government are fully understood and effectively addressed within the community.

The DCI has a special and direct responsibility to the Congress. Each Select Committee on Intelligence is an overseer of intelligence activities and programs as well as a partner in ensuring that this intelligence is properly gathered and protected. The DCI, therefore, must provide the Congress, through these committees, the timely, accurate and relevant information required to conduct its legislative and oversight duties.

Conducting covert operations is one of the most sensitive responsibilities of the DCI. The CIA cannot legally undertake covert action without a Presidential finding, and the American public must have confidence that covert operations will only be undertaken with the proper authority and after a careful consideration of the risks and objectives involved. The DCI must be certain the policy makers are presented with all information necessary for a sound decision. Once the decision is made to carry out a covert operation, the DCI has the ultimate responsibility to ensure that it is effectively managed and aggressively implemented within the limits of the authority granted to CIA.

The intelligence community is a great national resource. Its effectiveness depends upon the ability of its components to act in concert on issues which transcend individual departments of government. In planning, articulating needs, and coordinating joint efforts, the DCI's leadership role is most significant and offers perhaps his greatest opportunity to contribute to the national security of the United States.

3. In the Matter of the Independent Counsel's  
Investigation of the Suspension of the FBI's  
Southern Air Transport, Inc. Investigation

On December 19, 1986, I was interviewed by Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation concerning contact I had on October 30, 1986, with Associate Attorney General Stephen S. Trott, United States Department of Justice. Mr. Trott had contacted me regarding the FBI temporarily suspending its investigation of a Neutrality Act case involving Southern Air Transport, Inc. That investigation and the substance of my interview are both within the investigative jurisdiction of Independent Counsel Lawrence E. Walsh. I have been advised that Independent Counsel Walsh would object to disclosure of the substance of the interview or to disclosure of any written record or transcript of the interview.